

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3303

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 7556

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PARKER, DANIEL)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AID ADMINISTRATOR; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 268432 (B) AMMAN 7373

1. DISCUSSED PARKER VISIT AGAIN WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND PRIME MINISTER (SEPARATELY) DECEMBER 18.
2. CROWN PRINCE SAID THAT VISIT DATES (WEEK OF JANUARY 27) WOULD BE FINE WITH HIM. HE INDICATED THAT HE AND PRIME MINISTER ARE WORKING MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THAT HE IS HOPEFUL ERA OF CLOSER COOPERATION HAS BEGUN. IN THIS CONNECTION CROWN PRINCE NOTED HIS PLEASURE WITH MC NAMARA VISIT AND RATHER HARD WORDS LATTER HAD FOR JORDANIANS IN TERMS OF GETTING THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER. HE BELIEVES THIS HAS HAD A HELPFUL EFFECT IN EXPEDITING COOPERATION FROM PRIME MINISTER IN THIS AREA.
3. HASSAN ALSO NOTED THAT KING AND PRIME MINISTER HAD ACCEPTED CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF REORGANIZATION WHICH HE HAD PROPOSED. SPECIFICALLY: (A) MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY, HEADED BY HIS CLOSE COLLEAGUE DR RAJAI MUASKER, WOULD BECOME MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND BE FOCUSSED ENTIRELY ON ON DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA. ITS SUBSIDIARY, THE MORIBUND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WOULD BE GIVEN ALL

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GOVERNMENT HELD CORPORATE SHARES AND ITS VOTING AND MANAGERIAL

POWERS; (B) SUB-MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WOULD BE SEPARATED OUT AS SEPARATE MINISTRY, RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL RURAL DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE JORDAN VALLEY. HASSAN DOES NOT SHARE HIGH OPINION HOWEVER OF NEW MINISTER, DR ADHAUB AZ-ZIHEN, WHO, HASSAN SAYS IS A WELL MEANING BEDOUIN, WHO ACHIEVED A 50 PERCENT IN HIS HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING EXAM, AND THROUGH INFLUENCE GOT A DOCTORATE AT CAIRO'S AL AZHAR UNIVERSITY. BUT HASSAN BELIEVES THE SITUATION CAN NEVERTHELESS BE MADE TO WORK; (C) ROYAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY ECONOMIC PLANNING DEPT AND NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL NOW HEADED BY DR HANNAH ODEH (WITH DEPARTURE DR KHALIL SALEM AS AMBASSADOR IN PARIS) WILL BE MORE CLOSELY JOINED. EVENTUALLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO CREATE ONE NATIONAL PLANNING BODY, EVEN IF ZAREL RIFAI HAS TO BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY TO DO THIS.

4. RIFAI HAD NO ONE ESPECIALLY IN MIND TO REPLACE DR SALEM AS JORDANIAN COUNTERPART TO ADMINISTRATOR PARKER ON US-JORDANIAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. INITIALLY HE THOUGHT OF DR ODEH, BUT IS CONCERNED THAT HE IS TOO MUCH OF A TECHNOCRAT AND NOT BROAD GUAGED ENOUGH POLITICALLY OR AS WELL KNOWN AS HIS PREDECESSOR. (HASSAN WOULD LIKE THE JOB, BUT GIVEN HIS PRESENT LOW PROFILE WILL NOT ASK FOR IT AND DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE OFFERED TO HIM). BEST CHOICE MIGHT BE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF. PRIME MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR AGREED TO MEET AGAIN LATER AFTER PRIME MINISTER HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON CHOICE.

5. SO FAR AS AGENDA IS CONCERNED, WE AGREED TO REVIEW WORK DONE EARLIER, AND TO ADD TO IT BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS ON WORK DONE BY JORDANIANS AS RESULT OF AGREEMENTS WITH IBRD FOLLOWING MC NAMARA VISIT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GRATEFUL IF AID WOULD CONFIRM SOONEST PARKER'S AGREEMENT TO COME AS PROPOSED REF (A) AND AS NOW AGREED HERE, TOGETHER WITH EXACT LENGTH OF STAY AND SIZE OF PARTY, AS BASIS FOR OUR PLANNING FOR VISIT.
PICKERING

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